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United States Patent [19]**Karsh et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,226,163**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 6, 1993**[54] **FILE CHARACTERIZATION FOR
COMPUTER OPERATING AND FILE
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**[75] **Inventors:** **Bruce D. Karsh**, Los Altos; **Robert K.
Myers**, Santa Cruz, both of Calif.[73] **Assignee:** **Silicon Graphics, Inc.**, Mountain
View, Calif.[21] **Appl. No.:** **389,836**[22] **Filed:** **Aug. 1, 1989**[51] **Int. Cl.⁵** **G06F 9/45; G06F 15/403**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/700; 395/155;
395/159; 395/160; 395/600; 364/280;
364/280.4; 364/282.1; 364/283.1; 364/283.3;
364/286**[58] **Field of Search** **395/600, 700, 155, 159,
395/160; 340/700**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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OTHER PUBLICATIONSStephen H. Kaiser, *The Design of Operating Systems for
Small Computer Systems*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1983,
Chapter 6, pp. 424-507.*Primary Examiner*—Paul V. Kulik
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Davis & Schroeder[57] **ABSTRACT**A tool for characterization of files in a computer having
an operating and file management system is described.
The tool provides consistent definition and design of the
functionality and appearance of icons and symbols used
with operating environment programs.**22 Claims, 50 Drawing Sheets**